

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. To this end, petition is hereby made for a three month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Final Office Action of December 16, 2009. In addition, a request for continued examination of this application is hereby made, a more formal version of this request being filed with this Amendment After Final Rejection. Although the fees for the extension of time and the request for continued examination are being submitted with this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that should have been filed at this time to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 13-18 and 24-28 are pending in the application. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 5, 8, 14, 18, 24 and 25 will be amended, and claim 1 will be cancelled.

In the outstanding Final Office Action of December 16, 2009, the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected claims 5, 14 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, on the ground that there is no corresponding structure, material or acts disclosed in the application for the “retaining means” recited in these claims. Claims 5, 14 and 25 have been amended to remove the recited “retaining means”. As such, the Examiner’s objection to the drawings and these claims should be withdrawn, and claims 5, 14 and 25 should now be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating in the outstanding Final Office Action that claim 13 is allowed and that allowable claims 15 – 17, 24 and 26 – 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 14, from which claim 15-17 depend, has now been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection. Claim 1, from which claim 24 depends, has been cancelled, and the limitations of claim 1 have now been added into claim 24. Claim 8 has also been amended to change its dependency from claim 1 to claim 24. Finally, claim 25, from which claim 26-28 depend, has now been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection. In view of the forgoing amendments, claims 15 – 17, 24 and 26 – 28 should now be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's objection to them should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims remaining in the application, *i.e.*, claims 5, 8, 13-18 and 24-28, are now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain in this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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